

In re Application of: Doron TAM et al
Serial No.: 10/580,289
Filed: May 24, 2006
Office Action Mailing Date: January 23, 2009

Examiner: Randall Jr., Kelvin L
Group Art Unit: 3651
Attorney Docket: 66599-0005

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A device for dispensing a bag from a stack of bags, the device comprising:

a plate mounted on a frame, said plate defining a planar bag-supporting surface and an opposite planar surface;

a rotatable shaft coupled to said frame;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said shaft and arranged to engage a bag of the stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface; means for rotating said shaft whereby said nearest bag is shifted over said at least one roller; and

means for automatically stopping rotation of said shaft after said nearest single bag has been dispensed,

wherein the stack of bags is held against said planar bag-supporting surface, and said nearest bag is dispensed to said opposite planar surface side of said plate, said plate being disposed between said dispensed nearest bag and the stack of bags, and wherein said rotatable shaft is mounted on said frame, and the device further comprises a bag retaining element coupled to said plate for pressing the stack of bags against said at least one roller.

2-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

a second rotatable shaft mounted parallel to said rotatable shaft on an extension of said frame;

at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to said second shaft;

wherein each roller on said rotatable shaft is coupled to a roller on said second shaft, whereby rotation of said rotatable shaft causes concomitant rotation of said second shaft.

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10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said bag retaining element includes a bag-retaining bar for engaging and retaining said stack of bags against said at least one roller before and during dispensing.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 10, wherein said bag-retaining bar is coupled to an arm pivotally coupled to said plate.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising an elongate guide mounted adjacent said rollers to guide dispensed bags away from the rollers.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for dispensing a bag from a stack of bags, the method comprising:

holding a stack of bags against at least one roller non-rotatably affixed to a rotatable shaft coupled to a plate mounted on a frame and defining a planar bag-supporting surface and an opposite planar surface;

dispensing one bag from said stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface to said opposite planar surface of said plate by rotating said rotatable shaft; and

automatically stopping rotation of said shaft after dispensing said nearest one bag.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of automatically stopping includes detecting presence of a dispensed bag adjacent a dispensed bag detector; and stopping rotation of said shaft in response thereto.

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22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the rotatable shaft is drivingly coupled to a motor, and the step of rotating said rotatable shaft comprises actuating said motor, the method further comprising:

causing said at least one roller to engage one bag in said stack of bags nearest said planar bag-supporting surface, such that rotation of said rotatable shaft causes said at least one roller to remove said nearest bag from said stack of bags.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein said step of automatically stopping includes automatically stopping said motor in response to dispensing of said nearest one bag from said stack of bags.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein at least one roller is non-rotatably affixed to a second rotatable shaft, said second shaft is mounted parallel to said rotatable shaft, and said at least one roller on said rotatable shaft is coupled to said at least one roller on said second shaft, whereby rotation of said rotatable shaft causes concomitant rotation of said second shaft.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising drivingly coupling a manual rotation means to said rotatable shaft, such that actuation of said manual rotation means rotates said shaft.